

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 1444

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, DR
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BALAGUER: VICE-PRESIDENTIAL
CANDIDATE FERNANDO ALVAREZ BOGAERT

1. DURING MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BALAGUER YESTERDAY
AFTERNOON, I NOTED THAT THERE WAS WIDESPREAD SURPRISE OVER
THE UNEXPECTED NOMINATION OF FERNANDO ALVAREZ BOGAERT AS
THE PARTIDO REFORMISTA VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE. HE
CHUCKLED AND SAID THAT IT WAS INDEED A SURPRISE. HE
CONTINUED THAT HE HAD PERSONALLY CHOSEN ALVAREZ AND THAT
THE SELECTION HAD NOT BEEN MADE UNDER PRESSURE FROM
ANY INTEREST GROUP. HE SAID THAT IT WAS TIME TO GIVE
YOUNGER PEOPLE A CHANCE AND THAT HEREGARDED ALVAREZ
AS CAPABLE, INTELLIGENT, WELL-EDUCATED, DYNAMIC, EXPERIENCED
IN GOVERNMENT, A GOOD ORGANIZER, AND FRIENDLY TO THE U.S.
HE REGARDED HIM AS A DISTINCT ASSET ON HIS TICKET. I
AGREED WITH HIS DESCRIPTION OF ALVAREZ'S PERSONAL QUALITIES.
BALAGUER CONTINUED THAT HE THOUGHT ALVAREZ WOULD GROW
IN MATURITY IN HIS NEW POSITION, ASSUMING THE PR WON THE
ELECTIONS. (I KNOW ALVAREZ VERY WELL. HIS WEAKNESSES ARE
(1) EMOTIONAL SWINGS FROM ELATION TO DEPRESSION, (2) SOME
IMMATURITY IN JUDGMENT AND (3) A COMPULSION TO TALK
INCESSANTLY.) I ASKED ABOUT ALVAREZ'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE
MILITARY TO WHICH BALAGUER REPLIED THAT HE THOUGHT THEY WERE
GOOD ON ALL FRONTS, ADDING KNOWINGLY THAT ALVAREZ, AS HEAD
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OF THE STATE SUGAR ENTERPRISE IN THE EARLY 1970'S,
HAD CAREFULLY INGRATIATED HIMSELF WITH THE MILITARY.

2. I INQUIRED WHETHER THE SELECTION OF ALVAREZ AUGURED
FOR NEW, YOUNGER FACES IN THE CABINET, ASSUMING VICTORY.
BALAGUER REPLIED AFFIRMATIVELY THAT HE WOULD DO SO TO THE
EXTENT POSSIBLE, ALTHOUGH CLEARLY NOT EVERYONE WOULD BE

CHANGED. HE NOTED THAT THE PR SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR THE SENATE AND HOUSE CONTAINED MANY NEW FACES.

3. I NOTED THAT VICE-PRESIDENT GOICO MORALES HAD BEEN A DECORATIVE FIGUREHEAD WITH NO POWER DURING THE PAST FOUR YEARS AND INQUIRED WHETHER HE WOULD INTEND TO GIVE ALVAREZ ENLARGED FUNCTIONS. BALAGUER SMILINGLY REPLIED THAT "ALVAREZ" AND "DECORATIVE" WERE ANTONYMS. HE CONTINUED THAT ALVAREZ WOULD RECEIVE GREATER AUTHORITY AND THOUGHT HE COULD BE ESPECIALLY HELPFUL IN RESOLVING LABOR-MANAGEMENTDISPUTES. HE HOPED THAT GOICO MORALES WOULD BE ELECTED SENATOR SO THAT HE COULD THEN BECOME PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE.

4. JUST BEFORE SEEING THE PRESIDENT I CHATTED WITH THE PALACE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL CARIAS DOMINICI ABOUT THE REACTIONS OF THE PRESIDENT'S SISTER DONA EMMA AND OF POLICE CHIEF GENERAL NEIT NIVAR TO THE ALVAREZ SELECTION. HE SAID THAT A CURIOUS THING HAD HAPPENED REGARDING DONA EMMA: SHE HAD REFUSED TO ATTEND THE PR LUNCHEON CELEBRATING THE SELECTION OF THE PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES. ACCORDING TO CARIAS, PRESIDENT BALAGUER SENT BELLO ANDINO TO FETCH DONA EMMA WITH THE MESSAGE THAT HER PRESENCE WAS "IMPORTANT." REGARDING GENERAL NIVAR, HE SAID THAT ALVAREZ WAS REGARDED AS BEING CLOSER TO THE PEREZ Y PEREZ CAMP AND HE THOUGHT NIVAR WAS UNHAPPY.
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